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Marion Flood French Correspondence

Marion Flood French

Maine State Library

Hilda Jacob

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FRENCH, Marion Flood



Marion Flood French

Born 1920

Resided in Brewer and graduated from Brewer High School in 1939

Began teaching in Church School shortly before I reached high school age and from this experience became interested in the ministry or religious education work.

This interest led to work at an unusually early age to work with children and young people both in a volunteer and professional capacity (for the Congregational Christian conference) up and down the state summers. I did Scout work and many other forms of work calling for group leadership. I graduated from Bangor Theological Seminary in 1944 and after working for a short time as Director of Religious Education came to the painful decision that I would be happier and of greater service in a volunteer capacity as far as this type of work was concerned. I believe this experience is one of the reasons I am more than biased in my belief that children should be 'children' and should not choose their vocation too early in life.

After a brief sojourn in the South I returned to Bangor and went to work for the Bangor Daily News as a proofreader, which position I still hold. Shortly after this I discovered that my service might indeed be in the field of writing and certainly it is in this field that I find the greatest satisfaction.

If there is any one tenet which governs my writing today, it is this: The best way to teach is with love and laughter.

March 9, 1955

Mrs. Marion Flood French
203 Warren Street
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. French:

Congratulations on the forthcoming publication of your book, MR. BEAR GOES TO BOSTON. We look forward to seeing a copy, and are glad to know that there is already another under way.

The library orders will be placed through the usual channels, but we write at present about the Maine Author Collection. This is a permanent exhibit of books by Maine people, or pertaining to Maine. Most of them are inscribed presentation copies, the inscriptions as varied as the books. Over the years about two thousand volumes have accumulated to make the collection one of outstanding value and interest, which constantly attracts students and visitors.

We also gather all possible information about our authors: biographical material, literary reviews, and such. Are we correct in believing that you are a native of this state?

We hope that you will want to inscribe and present a copy of MR. BEAR GOES TO BOSTON for the Maine Author Collection. It would give us pleasure to welcome it to the shelves. Meanwhile, you have our warm good wishes for its success.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

Bangor Daily New March 8, 1955
clipping given to MAW 3.9.55

203 Warren Street

Bangor, Maine

March 10, 1955

Mrs. H. M. Jacobs,

Librarian

Maine State Library

Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacobs:

Thank you for your kind congratulations.

When Mr. Bear Goes To Boston is published it will be a most happy honor to present the Maine Author collection with an inscribed copy.

Also I will be most happy at that time to send you any further biographical material you would care to have. You are indeed correct in assuming me to be a native of Maine and I am a most enthusiastic booster of the state too.

The Maine State Library has served me well in time past when I did Vacation School work throughout the state. I am thinking of its traveling library service. I assume it is still available.

Thank you again for your best wishes,

Sincerely,

William Hood French

March 14, 1955

Mrs. Marion Flood French
203 Warren Street
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. French:

It is good news that the Maine Author Collection may anticipate a copy of your new book, MR. BEAR GOES TO BOSTON. We shall look forward to its publication eagerly.

Thank you for your kind words about the library and its service. We are always grateful to be told that the service is useful and remembered. Indeed the traveling libraries are still available. For your interest, we enclose the leaflets which describe both kinds of loans. You do not need this service now, probably, with the rich resources of the Bangor Public Library at your command; but there may be a day when we can help you again.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj
Encls.

November 10, 1955

Mrs. Marion Flood French
203 Warren Street
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. French:

It has now been our happy opportunity to see your wonderfully colorful and amusing book, MR. BEAR GOES TO BOSTON. It is instantly and tremendously appealing, and it goes into our traveling libraries and bookmobiles promptly.

We are confidently anticipating the arrival of the inscribed copy which you said we might have for the Maine Author Collection. And we also want very much the biographical data which you very kindly promised.

Good fortune to MR. BEAR, who is a delightful character.

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

hmj

203 Warren Street

Bangor, Maine

November 13, 1955

State Library

Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

Your letter and the inscribed copy of Mr. Bear apparently passed each other in the mail. This is because my own copies only just arrived and I was later in sending them out than I had planned.

I appreciate your kind comments very much and I hope, along with you, that Mr. Bear does have good fortune.

I enclose a small picture which you may wish to place in the book and a few facts to supplement what was included on the book jacket.

With deep appreciation for your interest,

Marion F. French

Marion Flood French

November 14, 1955

Mrs. Marion Flood French
203 Warren Street
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. French:

It is a great pleasure to welcome your MR. BEAR GOES TO BOSTON to the Maine Author Collection, and to welcome a new name to the company of Maine authors.

We very much appreciate your kindness in sending us the biographical sketch, and the picture. This is exactly the sort of information we want, and which often enough we have to beg directly from our authors.

You will be interested to know that already one child of my acquaintance has put MR. BEAR on her Christmas "want list". Let's hope there are lots of others. Although some of the humor may be most fully savored by readers who live in Maine, it is the kind of story which should have a wide appeal, whether or not one knows much about bears.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

203 Warren St
Bangor, Me.

Dear Mrs Jacobs,

I am glad that the biographical material was satisfactory. I wasn't just sure if you wanted the type of resume or simply statistics.

It occurred to me that the little girl you mentioned might be a personal friend of yours & if so she might be pleased with the enclosed autograph to paste in the front of her copy of 'Mr Bear' if Santa brings it to her.

With appreciation for your interest,

Marion F. French

November 18, 1955

Mrs. Marion Flood French
203 Warren Street
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mrs. French:

That was a most gracious gesture, to send the special inscription for the Christmas gift of MR. BEAR, so I feel that you should know that the little girl is indeed a personal friend of mine: she is my daughter! She will be thrilled at this special touch, for MR. BEAR will be under the tree for her on Christmas morning. My warm thanks go to you for making it possible to give this gift the distinction of your inscription.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection